



# PRESS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC  
Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701  
1-800-691-9987 • [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/)



Released: November 18, 2005

Media Contact: Bill Meyer, Tel # (208) 334-1507  
[bill\\_meyer@nass.usda.gov](mailto:bill_meyer@nass.usda.gov)

### **October Farm Labor**

For the Mountain I Region of the U.S. (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), there were 29,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005, the same as a year ago. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, hired workers worked an average of 51.4 hours during the survey week at an average wage of \$8.91 per hour, up 7 cents from last year.

There were 1,129,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 840,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.61 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 29 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.90 per hour, up 28 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.14 per hour compared with \$8.91 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.96 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 42.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.

**Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/).**